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# Talking Points, Land Park Announcement

Max S. Baucus

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Senator \* or Department\*: **BAUCUS**

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Record Type\*: **Speeches**

MONTH/YEAR of Records\*: **May-2008**

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(1) Subject\*: **Envrionment/Natural Resources**

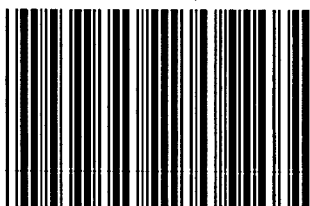
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(2) Subject\* **National Parks/Public Lands**

DOCUMENT DATE\*: **05/23/2008**

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\* "required information"



**BAUCUS**

To: Chairman Baucus

From: Paul Wilkins

Date: Friday, May 23, 2008, 14:00 PM

Re: Talking Points for Land Project Announcement

**Talking Points:**

**Introduction:**

- Montana is known as "The Last Best Place."
- But if we are not good, vigilant stewards of the land, Montana could lose what has made it so special—our outdoor heritage, our rural character, and our good paying jobs that come from the land.
- We are here today to announce that we have taken the first big step towards making sure that Montana will forever be the Last Best Place.
- We are here to announce that Plum Creek, The Nature Conservancy, and the Trust for Public Land have a framework for what could be the largest conservation and sustainable timber project in US history.

**Forest Bonds – The Tool that Makes it All Possible:**

- Yesterday, when the Senate voted to override the President's veto, my Forest Bonding provision became law.
- This provision provides \$500 million in bonding authority for states and non-profits to purchase land to preserve public access for hunting and fishing, provide for a sustainable timber base, and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

- Because of the passage of this provision, Plum Creek, The Nature Conservancy, and the Trust for Public Land have committed once again to roll up their sleeves and do the right thing for conservation.
- The three parties have a framework for an agreement.
- They have not reached a deal yet, but they are looking at a combination of land purchases and conservation easements on land in the Swan Valley, the Blackfoot Valley, the Lolo and Fish Creek.
- Some of the land will go to the Forest Service and some of the land will stay private.
- But at the end of day, it will all be open for public access for hunting, fishing, and hiking.
- This could be the largest conservation and sustainable timber project in US history.
- Because of my Forest Bonding provision in the Farm Bill, the funding is available.
- And Plum Creek, The Nature Conservancy, and the Trust for Public Land are committed to getting a deal.

## **Conclusion – Forever the Last Best Place**

- Because of what starts here today, Montana will forever be the Last Best Place.
- Because of what starts here today, there will never be a last generation of Montanans to fish the Blackfoot River.
- There will never be a last log from the Lolo headed to the mill.
- There will never be a last hunting trip into the Swan Valley.
- Because of what starts here today, the Last Best Place will last forever.
- Please join me in thanking Rick Holley (CEO of Plum Creek), Eric Love (Northern Rockies Director at the Trust for Public Land), and Dana Christiansen (Chairman of The Nature Conservancy in Montana).
- Each of these gentlemen would like to say a few words.